

Message Text

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43

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 SSO-00 /021 W

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O 181100Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4500

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (PERCY, CHARLES H.)

SUBJECT: CODEL PERCY: TRAVEL FROM LUSAKA TO MAPUTO

REF: A) MAPUTO 413 B) CAPE TOWN 439 AND 440

1. EMBASSY IS STILL ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR DAO AIRCRAFT. NO ONE FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY COULD BE LOCATED LAST NIGHT, NOR DID ANYONE RETURN OUR CALLS. WE HAVE TRIED AGAIN THIS MORNING TO REACH SOMEONE, BUT THEY ARE REPORTED TO BE "UNAVAILABLE", PRESUMABLY WORKING ON KAUNDA VISIT. FOREIGN MINISTRY ITSELF IS CLOSED, AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE YESTERDAY NOON.

2. WE MUST STRESS THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROVAL IS IMPERATIVE. THIS CONFIRMED BY CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIAL AT AIRPORT WHO ADVISES THAT NO CLEARANCE FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT FOREIGN MINISTRY AUTHORIZATION.

3. APART FROM DIFFICULTY WE ENCOUNTERING IN FINDING SOMEONE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO CAN AUTHORIZE THE CLEARANCE, THERE ARE OBVIOUS POLITICAL DRAWBACKS TO REQUESTING CLEARANCE FOR US MILITARY AIRCRAFT. GPRM AND US RELATIONS ARE STILL IN VERY EMBRYONIC AND SENSITIVE STAGE. THERE NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH
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AMBASSADOR WILL WANT TO TAKE UP WITH GPRM AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY,

INCLUDING MATTER OF PROLONGED DETENTION OF THREE AMERICAN MISSIONARIES.

UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO RISK IRRITATING FOREIGN MINISTRY OR OTHER GPRM OFFICIALS BY REQUESTING CLEARANCE FOR DAO AIRCRAFT, WHICH FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL CERTAINLY VIEW AS MAJOR CONCESSION TO U.S. AND WHICH RUNS SMACK IN FACE OF GPRM SUSPICIONS OF U.S. WE HAVE NOT HIGHLIGHTED POLITICAL DRAWBACKS SINCE WE ASSUME CODEL PERCY AND NEIGHBORING POSTS WOULD USE DAO AIRCRAFT ONLY AS LAST RESORT.

4. EVEN THOUGH TIME IS SHORT, THERE STILL SEEM TO BE TWO ALTERNATIVES WHICH WE URGE CODEL AND EMBASSIES LUSAKA AND PRETORIA EXPLORE.

A. ARRANGE CHARTER FLIGHT FROM LUSAKA TO MAPUTO, ARRIVING EITHER LATER TODAY OR PRIOR 1000 HOURS APRIL 19.
B. CODEL FLY WITH DAO AIRCRAFT TO JOHANNESBURG TONIGHT, OVERNIGHT JOBURG OR PRETORIA AND COME IN WITH CHARTER FLIGHT PRIOR 1000 HOURS APRIL 19.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOUTH AFRICAN CIVILIAN CHARTER COMPANIES MAKE OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR CLEARANCES.

6 EMBASSY PRETORIA PLEASE ADVISE IF CIVILIAN CHARTER CAN BE ARRANGED FOR EARLY MORNING APRIL 19.
DE PREE

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